

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02161 01 OF 02 101310Z

42 C

ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 /015 W  
----- 070659

R 101207Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8941

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2161

STATE FOR PER, NEA AND SCA

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: APER, AFSP, CGEN

SUBJ: BEIRUT CONSULAR WORKLOAD AND STAFFING

REF: STATE 041422, BEIRUT 1893

SUMMARY:

CONSULAR WORKLOAD STILL INCREASING. FEBRUARY STATISTICS SHOW NONIMMIGRANT DEMAND CONTINUES AT SEASNAL RECORD LEVEL PLUS QUANTUM JUMP IN IMMIGRATION DEMAND. SERVICES TO AMERICANS NOT YET UP TO PREVIOUS NORMAL, BUT MOST CASES CONTINUE BE DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING VIEW EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN LEBANON. OUR CONCERN IS NOT ONLY RE QUANTITY, BUT WITH ABILITY CONTINUE PROVIDE QUALITY WORK OUTPUT. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER ILLEGAL ALIENS, CAREFUL NIV INTERVIEWS ESSENTIAL IN THIS LAND OF INCREASING UNQUALIFIED NIV DEMAND AND FRAUD POTENTIAL. IN ABSENCE BOULDER SCREEN, INTERVIEWS REMAIN AS BEST DEFENSE AGAINST ENTRY TERRORISTS, PLO MEMBERS, ETC. QUALITY VISA WORK ALSO IMPORTANT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS AND LOCAL SECURITY REASONS. AMERICAN SERVICES REMAIN CRITICAL IN VIEW WORLDWIDE CONGRESSIONAL, GAO AND PUBLIC INTEREST. IN SHORT, OUR CONSULAR SECTION WILL BE BUSIER THAN EVER. ACCORDINGLY POST URGES PHASED RETURN TO FULL STAFFING OF 7 OFFICERS AND ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY BY JUNE 1 AT LATEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02161 01 OF 02 101310Z

1. WE HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO QUESTION OF

FUTURE CONSULAR STAFFING REQUIREMENTS. WORKLOAD STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY, FIRST REASONABLY NORMAL MONTH IN SOME TIME, HAVE JUST BEEN COMPILED. THESE SHOW QUANTUM JUMP IN IMMIRGRATION DEMAND PLUS SMALLER INCREASES IN MOST OTHER CONSULAR FUNCTIONS. THESE STATISTICS HAVE HELPED CLEAR OUR CRYSTAL BALL AND PERMIT US MAKE PROJECTIONS FOR REST OF YEAR. EACH EAR OF CONSULAR WORKLOAD DISCUSSED SEPARATELY BELOW. ALL PROJECTIONS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THERE WILL BE NO LONG TERM RELAPSE TO SERIOUS FIGHTING IN EMBASSY VICINITY BEFORE END OF SUMMER.

2. NONIMMIGRANT VISAS. WHILE DISTURBANCES IN JANAURY KEPT WORKLOAD TO NORMAL OFF-SEASON LEVEL, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY WORKLOADS AT RECOND HIGHS FOR WINTER SEASON. OUR PROJECTION FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 IS FOR CASE LOAD IN EXCESS OF 11,000, AN ALL TIME HIGH. HIGH WORKLOAD COMPLICATED BY INCREASING NUMBER OF UNQUALIFIED APPLICANTS. REFUSAL RATE, WHICH HISTORICALLY RANGES BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PERCENT, HAS CLIMBED THROUGHOUT LEBANESE CRISIS AND, FOR FIRST TIME, EXCEEDED 50 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, REFUSALS MORE DIFFICULT ANDTIME CONSUMING THAN ISSUANCES.

3. IT LESS EASY TO FORESEE NIV WORKLOAD FOR JULY, AUGUST AND LATER. WHILE WE HOPE QUOTE SANTO DOMINGO EFFECT END QUOTE WIL DEVELOP AND SLOW RATE OF INCREASE, WE NEVERTHELESS ANTICIPATE RECOND SUMMER. FOR EXAMPLE, SUTDENT VISA APPLICATIONS WILL BE UP SUBSTANTIALY. MANY LEBANESE LOSING FATH IN QUALITY OF DETERIORATING LOCAL UNIVERSITIES OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WITH SCHOOLS' ABILITY TO COMPLETE ANY GIVEN SEMESTER. DIRECTOR OF BEIRUT OFFICE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF MIDDLE EAST, PRIMARY OF HIGH QUALITY STUDENT APPLICANTS, INFORMS US HIS WORKLOAD FOR NEW STUDENTS SEEKING U.S. ACCEPTANCES IS UP APPROXIMATELY 100 PER CENT. WE CAN EXPECT SIMILAR INCREASES IN STUDENT VISA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02161 01 OF 02 101310Z

APPLICATIONS THIS SUMMER. THUS, WE ANTICIPATE SUMMER WORKLOAD WILL SUBSTANTIALY EXCEED PAST SUMMERS' PEAKS WHICH KEPT FULLY OCCUPIED TWO NIV OFFICERS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM IV OFFICER AND FROM AMERICAN SERVICES JUNIOR OFFICER.

4. WE CONCERNED, OF COURSE, NOT ONLY REGARDING QUANTITY BUT ALSO QUALITY OF NIV WORK. WE MUST CONTINUE

INTERVIEW MOST (OVER 90 PER CENT) OF ALL APPLICANTS. WE BELIEVE OUR TRACK RECORD ON ABSCONDING NIVS IS GOOD BUT, IN THIS COUNTRY OF MOUNTING UNQUALIFIED NIV DEMAND AND INCREASING FRAUD POTENTIAL, WE CAN NOT AFFORD LET UP. THIS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF DOMESTIC INTEREST IN ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM. FURTHERMORE, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IN ABSENCE OF BOULDER SYSTEM, CAREFUL, ASTUTUE INTERVIEW IS BEST REMAINING DEFENSE AGAINST ENTRY OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST, PLO MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES, ETC. IN ADDITION, WE WISH AVOID PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD ACCOMAPNY LONG LINES AND LONG WAITS BY NIV APPLICANTS. PUBLIC RELATIONS FACTORS IN BEIRUT HAVE UNIQUE ASPECT OF SELF-PRESERVATION. IN LAND THAT HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO VIOLENT REVENGE, WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO BRUSH OFF UNQUALIFIED APPLICANTS BUT MUST ATTEMPT ASSURE EACH ONE LEAVES SATISFIED HE HAS HAD FAIR HEARING.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02161 02 OF 02 101315Z

44-C

ACTION PER-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 /015 W

----- 070721

R 101207Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8942

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 2161

5. IMMIGRANT VISAS. UNTIL RECENTLY DEMAND HAS BEEN DOWN FROM RECORD YEARS. WE NOW SEE SUDDEN REVERSAL. NUMBER OF NEW "ENTITLED TO STATUS" IMMIGRANTS (I.E., ALL NEW CASES EXCEPT IMMEDIATE RELATIVES) FOR MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 20 TOTALED 921, NEARLY TWICE HISTORIC RECORD AND EXCESS OF THREE TIMES AVERAGE FOR CALENDER YEAR 1975. WE ALS NOTE RECENT SHART INCREASE IN DOCUMENTARILY QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS OW BEING SCHEDULED FOR APPINTMENTS. WE PROJECT THAT IMMIGRANT VISA WORKLOAD FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 WIL BE AT LEAST 3600, JUST 200 SHORT OF HISTORIC HIGH. WORKLOAD FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS WILL

BE AT RATE OF AT LEAST 4200 ANNUALLY. WE CAN NOT PREDICT WHETHER RATE OF NEW CASES WILL CONTINUE AT THE 900 PLUS RATE. WE ASSUME MUCH OF THIS NEW DEMAND REPRESENTS APPROVAL OF PETITIONS EXECUTED EARLIER IN LEBANESE CRISIS AND ONLY NOW WORKING WAY THROUGH INS BACKLOG. WE ASSUME HIGH RATE WILL CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER LEBANESE CONFIDENCE IN STABILITY IS RESTORED WHENEVER THAT MAY BE. WE MUST ANTICIPATE HIGH WORKLOADS AT LEAST THROUGH THIS SUMMER BUT HESITATE TO SPECULATE MUCH FURTHER DOWN THE PIKE. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ONE IV OFFICER WILL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL.

6. AMERICAN SERVICES (CITIZENSHIP, PROTECTION ETC.). WORKLOAD IN THIS AREA MORE DIFFICULT ASSESS STATISTICALLY. OF COURSE, SIZE OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY DOWN. NUMBER OF SERVICES SUCH AS PASSPORT ISSUANCES AND NOTARIALS STILL DOWN. HOWEVER, FEBRUAR STATISTICS SHOW SUDDEN INCREASE TO NORMAL SEASONAL LEVELS. WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS REQUESTS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02161 02 OF 02 101315Z

THIS YEAR HIGH FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. OF GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN QUANTITY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DIFFICULTY IN SERVICING SUCH CASES. FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME MAIL SYSTEM NON-EXISTENT, TELEPHONES INOPERATIVE, AND NEARLY ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CLOSED. EVEN IN TODAY'S RELATIVE PEACE, ESSENTIAL CONSULAR CONTACTS DIFFICULT TO FIND AND SOMETIMES UNCOOPERATIVE, MAILS UNRELIABLE, TELEPHONES BALKY AND TRAGEL OUTSIDE BEIRUT CONSIDERED UNSAFE FOR EMBASSY STAFF. OUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF US CITIZEN PRISONERS ILLUSTRATE DIFFICULTIES OF OPERATING HERE. AMNESTIES AFTER SERVING HALF SENTENCE USUALLY RATHER ROUTINE. CIVIL STRIFE ELIMINATES NORMAL MACHINERY. ONLY IN LAST WEEK HAVE WE SEEN CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT OUR LONG, PATIENT EFFORTS TO MOVE GOV TOWARD REINSTITUTION OF AMNESTY PROGRAM WILL MEET SUCCESS.

7. IN VIEW CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL, GAO, AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN PROTECTION OF US CITIZENS WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD EXPAND RATHER THAN CONTRACT OUR EFFORTS PROVIDE SERVICES. IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICES AGAIN STRESSED IN EAGLEBURGER CALBE (STATE 54660) AS RECENTLY AS MARCH 5. ONE CONSUL NOW ASSIGNED FULL TIME TO AMERICAN SERVICES OVEREXTENDED. IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE PROPER LEVEL SERVICES, HE WILL NEED ASSISTANCE WELL BEFORE TIME SUMMER RUSH ARRIVES. PREDICTIONS FURTHER INTO FUTURE DIFFICULT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IF RELATIVE PEACE CONTINUES, AMERICAN COMMUNITY WILL INCREASE TOWARDS PREVIOUS LEVELS. THUS, THIS SUMMER WE WILL NEED THIRD AMERICAN SERVICES OFFICER WHO WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO SPEND HIGHER PERCENTAGE TIME ASSISTING

BISA BRANCH MEET RECORD DEMANDS.

8. STAFFING REQUIRED. INESTABLISHING TIMETABLE FOR RESTORING CONSULAR STAFF TO AUTHORIZED LEVELS, WE HAVE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION PRESENT STATISTICS AND OUR BEST FUTURE PROJECTIONS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT UNEXPECTED DEPARTMENT MOVE IN TRANSFERRING, OUR EVACUATED PERSONNEL, PLUS SUMMER TRANSFERS, MEAN THAT CONSULR SECTION WILL HAVE LARGE NUMBER OF GREEN PERSONNEL TO TRAIN.

9. AS DEPARTMNT WARE, OUR AUTHORIZED CONSULAR STAFF  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02161 02 OF 02 101315Z

INCLUDES 7 AMERICAN OFFICERS AND ONE AMERICA SECRETARY. NOW ON BOARD ARE 5 OFFICERS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TELCON THAT SUTTER WIL BE REPLACED BY TIME HE DEPARTS FOR DAMASCUS ON OR ABOUT MARCH 22. THIS IS ESSENTIAL. SIXTH OFFICER SHOULD ARRIVE BY MAY 1 TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE BY MAY 15 WHEN SUMMER RUSH BEGINS IN EARNEST. AMERICAN SECRETARY SHOULD ARRIVE AT SAME IME, OR EARLIER IF POSSIBLE. SEVENTH OFFICER SHOULD ARRIVE BY JUNE 1. ALTERNATIVE TO PERMANENT ASSIGNNENT OF SEVENTH OFFICER WOULD BE TDY OF EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICER MAY 15 TO SEPT 15.  
LAMBRAKIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BEIRUT02161  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760090-0910  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760377/aaaacpyi.tel  
**Line Count:** 252  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PER  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 41422, 76 BEIRUT 1893  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 SEP 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEIRUT CONSULAR WORKLOAD AND STAFFING  
**TAGS:** APER, AFSP, CGEN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006